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TITLE: Anti-herpesviral agent

DATE-ISSUED: January 8, 2002

INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
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US-CL-CURRENT: [424/229.1](#); [424/204.1](#), [424/231.1](#), [435/5](#), [530/300](#), [536/23.72](#)

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. An antiviral agent which prevents or hinders replication of a herpesvirus in vitro by specifically binding to POL or UL8, thus inhibiting the association between UL8 and POL, wherein "UL8" is defined as UL8 of HSV-1 or the homologues thereof in other herpesviruses and "POL" is defined as POL of HSV-1 or homologues thereof in other herpesviruses, wherein said agent is a peptide selected from the group of peptides:

- a) VFTGVLGVWGEGGKFVYPFDDKMSFLFA (SEQ ID NO: 5);
- b) IELVFTGVLGVWGEGGKFV (SEQ ID NO: 7);
- c) DEWVRSLAVDAQHASKRVASEGLRFFRLNA (SEQ ID NO: 11) and;
TWLEERDEWVRSLAVDAQHAARRVAS (SEQ ID NO: 12).

2. An antiviral agent as claimed in claim 1 which is a synthetic peptide.

3. A method of preventing replication of a herpesvirus, said method comprising providing an agent able to bind specifically to UL8 or POL thereby inhibiting the association between UL8 and POL in vitro, wherein "UL8" is defined as UL8 of HSV-1 or the homologues thereof in other herpesviruses and "POL" is defined as POL of HSV-1 or the homologues thereof in other herpesviruses, and wherein said agent is a peptide selected from the group of peptides:

- a) VFTGVLGVWGEGGKFVYPFDDKMSFLFA (SEQ ID NO: 5);

b) IELVFTGVLAGVWGEKKFV (SEQ ID NO: 7);

c) DEWVRSLAVDAQHASKRVASEGLRFFRLNA (SEQ ID NO: 1) and;

TWLEERDEWVRSLAVDAQHAARRVAS (SEQ ID NO: 12);

said method comprising adding said agent to said replicating herpesvirus in sufficient quantity to cause said inhibition and monitoring the effect on viral replication and thus determining the presence or extent of said inhibition.

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